

Al-Bashir who escaped ICC, can escape the Sudanese people?

*This article was published in <http://www.alrakoba.net/news-action-show-id-186281.htm> on 03 December 2015*

In a meeting with supporters of his rule that lasted over two and half a decade, the Sudanese president Omar al-Bashir resorted to the rhetoric of threats, intimidation, and challenge against his people and the political forces who oppose his regime.

This comes ahead of the upcoming April elections in which Al- Bashir announced he will run for the presidential elections through which he could gain a new term.

By the end of this expected term he would rule the Sudan for three decades, making him the sole ruler who has received this period in power. No one has possessed it before him except his ancestors of Arab rulers who became part of the history like Mubarak in Egypt, Gaddafi in Libya, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali in Tunisia, and the Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

Al-Bashir, who is the candidate of the National Congress for presidency, has mocked the opposition campaign led by former Prime Minister Sadiq al-Mahdi that announced its boycott to the April 2015 elections and demanded the removal of Al-Bashir regime under the slogan "Go".

"We are not afraid of anybody and ignore anybody, we afraid only of God Almighty. Are they threatening us with death? Death is in God's hands, we want a graceful death, we want it for God's sake, and have our place among martyrs", Al-Bashir said during a ceremony of allegiance from supporters and Sufi Sheikhs in Khartoum.

Mustafa Osman, head of political sector of the National Conference, also threatened the opponents saying "Such people do not deserve honor of belonging to the homeland, not to mention the honor of its leadership".

We say to them "We will reply you through the huge number of voters at ballot box" adding that they "would cut off the fingers of those who try to disturb the election" in reference to the entire opposition.

Yasser Yousef, secretary of the ruling party information secretariat, has described the elections' boycotters as "the most abject people."

Remarks of the president and officials in his government showed their confusion and fear of the next stage and the opposition's ability to convince a wide variety of sectors to boycott the polls, which in turn will spoil the elections as the needed quorum will not be completed.

The reign of al-Bashir which is marred by injustice, displacement, deportation, destruction of infrastructure and collapse of national economy have not awakened him from his inattention towards the size of destruction that hit the country since he took the helm through a military coup backed by the National Islamic Front organization under the leadership of the mastermind Dr. Hassan al-Turabi.

The controversial April's elections, which come at a time of raging wars in six different regions of the country and after the secession of the southern part which followed by the declaration of an independent state, al-Bashir and his supporters insist to hold it, although many observers see it as an image of the past elections. Its result is known in advance that the ruling party will continue in power which means more economic, political, security and social devastation.

Nothing will prevent this except through a unified opposition that should work hard to take advantage of this opportunity and completely boycott the elections to hinder the completion of a quorum. This will send several significant messages to the international community especially, the US which supports improving the image of Al-Bashir's regime due to mutual interests.

The Sudanese people has long wanted to change and sacrificed blood of some of his youth, but confrontation with al-Bashir who is protected by his military arsenal has prevented the recent demonstrations from turning to a revolution due to the suppression with full force and brutality.

The ballot box is a peaceful and genuine way of expressing the rejection and triggering the change. It is expected that the Sudanese people -through (Go) campaign- will send a new message to the West that the ballots are resorting to the desire of the people.

If the reluctant international community turns a blind eye to the fraud which the Bashir regime will commit to give itself a false legitimacy, it will put the seriousness of the world powers, especially the West before a new test where the booming slogans will drop.

The Sudanese people are capable of delivering their voice through a complete boycott of these elections without resorting to force or bloodshed and to prove itself and its choices to help forget a quarter century of suffering and tyranny.

Finally, we recall what the Tunisian writer, Muhammad Krishan said that "Al-Bashir controls the country and takes it hostage to protect his head from the Intentional Criminal Court". The writer described it as a maneuver to win time. He concluded by saying: "either its time will come or he gets his natural death".